

to countless environmental advocates and others working to effect change. His work is certainly an inspiration to me.

I extend my most heartfelt wishes to Ed Wayburn for a very happy 100th birthday. Thank you, Ed, for all you have done for the protection of our natural environment.●

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I wish to commend the National Weather Service and the Billings, MT office.

This year Billings, MT, hosted the 13th national signature event commemorating the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery Exploration. The event at Pompeys Pillar was one of the most successful signature events in the country, and I was proud to participate in the opening ceremonies.

A great deal of preparation and partnership went into the planning surrounding those 4 days in July and the thousands of visitors expected to attend. Federal agencies stepped up to the table. Federal partnerships were key to this success. Specific concern centered on area wildfires already burning that had been started by lightning strikes from afternoon and evening storms. The National Weather Service took on major responsibility for these weather-related public safety issues.

On Saturday, July 22 and Sunday, July 23, late afternoon storms accompanied by upwards of 60-mph winds necessitated rapid evacuations of the public events at Pompeys Pillar. Efficient communication and clear direction from the National Weather Service, in coordination with the Bureau of Land Management, provided safe passage out of Pompeys Pillar in a swift and orderly fashion for the remaining public visitors, volunteers, and employees on those days.

It is apparent that the storm's effect and damage could have easily become a larger story attributed to the Pompeys Pillar signature event. That it was not is a testament to the science, technology, and public service and dedication of your agency and of your employees. Thanks to all of you for what you do for Montana. It is a job well done.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO SERGEANT LEIGH ANN HESTER

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I would like to recognize and congratulate U.S. Army SGT Leigh Ann Hester, a recent recipient of the United Service Organization's 'Service Member of the Year' Award. This honor is presented annually to one enlisted member from each branch of the Armed Forces and must be given to a soldier who demonstrates remarkable courage and skill, often risking their own lives to save the lives of others.

On March 20, 2005, Sergeant Leigh Ann Hester of the 617th Military Police Company, a National Guard unit out of Richmond, KY, was escorting a convoy of 26 supply vehicles when they were suddenly ambushed. According to military accounts of the firefight, about 40 insurgents attacked the convoy as it was traveling south of Baghdad, launching their assault from trenches alongside the road using rifles, machine guns, and rocketpropelled grenades. Despite being outnumbered five to one and coming under heavy enemy fire, Sergeant Hester led her team through the 'kill zone' and into a flanking position, where she assaulted a trench line with grenades and M203 grenade-launcher rounds.

Her quick thinking saved the lives of numerous convoy members. When the conflict ended, 27 insurgents were dead, 6 were wounded, and 1 was captured.

SGT Leigh Ann Hester is the first woman to receive the USO 'Service Member of the Year' Award and the first woman in over 60 years to receive the Silver Star—the Army's third highest award for valor in combat.

SGT Hester was only 23 years old at the time of this encounter. She was born in 1982 in Bowling Green, KY, later moved to Nashville, TN, and she joined the National Guard in April of 2001. As she continues the legacy of military service in her family—her uncle, Carl Sollinger, served honorably in Vietnam, and her grandfather, Oran Sollinger, was awarded a Bronze Star for his valor in World War II—Sergeant Hester intends to continue to serve our country by beginning a career in law enforcement.

On behalf of the people of Kentucky and the Senate, I thank SGT Leigh Ann Hester for her commitment to her country, community, and fellow soldiers. It is my honor to recognize her today for her bravery and her accomplishments. My thoughts and prayers are always with her and all the men and women who protect this Nation.●

RECOGNIZING SOUTH CAROLINA ORGANIZATIONS

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I wish to call attention to the good work of the Columbia, SC, Urban League and the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA. On September 11, 2006, the Columbia Urban League and the VA cohosted a training seminar for church leaders in South Carolina to help address the growing population of troubled military veterans returning from combat zones. This Veterans Ministry Workshop was led by a panel of 10 physicians from the Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia, each of whom explained the various psychological challenges that face veterans returning from conflict. The panelists discussed methods for dealing with veterans' children and spouses while offering practical tips for church members to follow. Around 100 church leaders attended the event.

I salute the VA, the Columbia Urban League, and in particular its president,

Mr. James T. McLawhorn, for their initiative in organizing the Veterans Ministry Workshop. It was Mr. McLawhorn, a member of the VA Advisory Committee on Minority Affairs, who originally proposed the idea in response to studies released by the Journal of the American Medical Association, JAMA. Without his leadership and the cooperation of VA officials on the ground in South Carolina, the Veterans Ministry Workshop may have never happened. I am confident that the workshop will have a tremendous impact on the veteran community in South Carolina, and I hope that the Columbia Urban League and VA will build on its success.●

WHITE LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that today I publicly honor and congratulate White Lake School District on achieving blue ribbon status under the Federal No Child Left Behind Act. The prestigious blue ribbon designation is based on strong test scores and a myriad of other successes.

The White Lake School District is among only 250 entities to be recognized nationwide so far this year. For public schools like White Lake to qualify for blue ribbon status, they must meet State testing levels or have a student body comprised of a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students, yet demonstrate improvement. Achieving this goal is a wonderful accomplishment, and White Lake schools ought to be applauded.

This is not the first time White Lake schools have been honored. In both the 2003–2004 and 2004–2005 school years, the district was named a Distinguished District, due to high scores on the DakotaSTEP achievement test. The U.S. Department of Education has also named White Lake as a Title I Distinguished School. In order to apply to be a blue ribbon school, the White Lake School District submitted a 27-page application outlining their strategies and techniques for learning success.

Mr. President, I am proud to have this opportunity to honor White Lake School District. It is a privilege for me to share with my colleagues the exemplary leadership and tireless commitment to education that White Lake School District provides to its students. I strongly commend the hard work and dedication that the faculty, administrators, and staff devote to White Lake schools, and I am very pleased that their hard work and the students' substantial efforts are being publicly honored and celebrated. On behalf of all South Dakotans, I would like to congratulate this extraordinary school system and wish them continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO BETTY J. MARTIN

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to honor

the life of Betty J. Martin. Mrs. Martin passed away on August 30, 2006, at the age of 68. Throughout her life, Betty was a dedicated public servant who dedicated her life to serving less fortunate individuals in the Saginaw community. Her efforts over the years have brought aid and comfort to so many, and we should all be grateful for her work.

Betty made a meaningful impact in the city of Saginaw. Her life's work stands as a testament to her many successes. In 1979, she became the director of the Good Neighbor Mission in Saginaw, a food pantry that serves the local needy. In 1991, Betty founded the Restoration Community Outreach Center. This center has enabled thousands struggling with substance abuse, mental illness, or physical disabilities to get the necessary assistance to begin to repair their lives.

Over the years, Betty has received numerous awards for her efforts, including the 1996 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Certificate of Recognition for Dedicated Service to the Homeless, the 2002 Salvation Army Appreciation Award and the 2005 Saginaw City Council Certificate of Recognition. She has created a legacy that will reverberate in the city of Saginaw for many years to come, and her commitment to serving the needy should serve as an example for us all.

Betty is survived by her husband of 42 years, Judge Martin, one son, Bernard Smith Abernathy, one step-daughter, Joyce Ann Martin, and nine grandchildren. I know my colleagues in the Senate join me in offering my condolences to her family, colleagues, and friends. I hope they take comfort in the amount of good she has done over the years.●

RETIREMENT OF JOHN STENCEL

● Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, today I honor John Stencel, who will soon retire as president of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. John has been a tireless advocate for rural America, and he can retire with the comfort that he has profoundly influenced an entire generation of farmers and ranchers in Colorado and across the Nation.

For almost 50 years John has worked with the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, during which time he has served as a steady and pragmatic compass. He early on saw the benefits of cooperatives so that small farmers could add significant value to their products. He has embraced the potential of biobased fuels as an innovative pathway to power production and transportation fuel needs. He has recognized that responsible stewardship of the land should be a top priority for farmers and ranchers, as clean water, energy conservation, and biodiversity all enhance our society.

John is a tireless advocate for the future sustainability of the rural way of life. His leadership has shaped the next

generation of rural citizens, serving as the president of Colorado 4-H Foundation, vice president of the Colorado Future Farmers of America, and as a board member of the Colorado State University Board of Agriculture. His leadership in these organizations ensures that the traits that have characterized him, that of perseverance, dedication, and moral fiber, will manifest themselves in future generations of agricultural leadership.

However, my deep respect for John Stencel isn't only based on his involvement with these organizations; it is based on the common values that underlie those efforts and have driven his policies and agendas. My respect is based on his commitment to sustain and strengthen family farm and ranch agriculture, and to preserve the rural way of life we know and love. These values are embodied by John Stencel.

John has been an influential and indispensable guide, and though he is retiring from his service to the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, I take comfort in the longevity of our friendship and his steadfast leadership for rural America, and I wish him nothing but the best.●

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF JIMMY WILLIAMSON

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I honor Mr. Jimmy Williamson, who will become the first Alabamian to serve as chairman of the board for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

This is a tremendous honor, both for Jimmy and for Alabama. The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants serves as the national professional association for more than 350,000 certified public accountants. Jimmy's education, experience, and passion for finance make him the best choice to take the helm of the organization.

Jimmy, a past president of the Alabama Society of CPAs, is a senior partner and stockholder in the MDA Professional Group accounting firm where he specializes in profit sharing plans, fringe benefits, nonqualified deferred compensation plans, estate and personal financial planning, business acquisitions, and investment review and analysis. I am also proud to say that Jimmy and I share an interest in fraud prevention and detection, one of the most important financial issues we face today. His professional work and leadership on committees, that are too plentiful to name, make him uniquely qualified and prepared for this position. I am proud to recognize his professional achievements and congratulate him on this important post.●

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF BILL CHANDLER

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I honor William "Bill" Chandler, a pillar of the Montgomery, AL community. Bill devoted 50 years of his life to de-

veloping the YMCA in Montgomery and influencing the lives of thousands of youth.

Bill, known as "Mr. YMCA" in Montgomery, was a father figure to many young men and women in need of guidance. Bill believed that civic education and open discussions were important to developing youth into productive citizens. He was instrumental in creating and implementing innumerable youth programs focused on leadership development including the Alabama Youth Legislature, the YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs, Lions International Youth Camp, and the Hi-Y and Tri-Hi-Y programs. Without a doubt, many of Montgomery's, Alabama's, and the Nation's leaders have been directly influenced by Mr. Chandler and the programs he championed.

Mr. Chandler also proved himself to be an effective leader and businessman as president of the Montgomery YMCA. Under his leadership, Montgomery's single YMCA grew into the multiple branches operating across the city. His commitment to service was also recognized when he was chosen to serve as the president of Lion's Club International.

Mr. Chandler also served as an important leader in Alabama throughout times of racial tension in Montgomery and the State. He worked to open facilities in all parts of the Montgomery community to serve people from all walks of life and was at the forefront of providing integrated services. In 1983, when racial discord was near its boiling point in Montgomery, Mr. Chandler worked with community and civil rights leaders to develop the biracial Youth One Montgomery organization to allow Black and White youth to conduct an open dialog and better understand the issues surrounding race.

Bill Chandler, a graduate of Rice University and the University of Georgia, served with distinction as an officer in the U.S. Navy during World War II. An accomplished athlete himself, Bill was also responsible for the creation of a city sports league and the Jimmy Hitchcock award to honor character in high school athletes.

Bill was an inspiration to many, and I am truly grateful for the endless contributions he made to the youth in Alabama. He was preceded in death by his wife, Martha Spidle Chandler and will be missed by his three children, Carroll Chandler Phelps, Elizabeth Chandler Walston, and William Robert Chandler; his seven grandchildren; and his sister, Evelyn Chandler Berg. His dedication to community service will be remembered and shared by those whose lives he touched for generations to come.●

TRIBUTE TO 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLT INTERNATIONAL

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, in the mid 1950s, Harry and Bertha Holt of Eugene, OR, saw a film about children in Korean orphanages who were in desperate need of help. Touched by what